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NSA 'Interview' Dwells on Sex Life



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Lean back in the chair. Relax. Don't fiddle with the lie detector wires. Concentrate on the ceiling and tell the strange man about your sex life. Please supply names and addresses of references.

The above is not the opener in an X-rated film about the future. Rather, it is the pre-employment "interview" a young college student says he underwent this month at the National Security Agency, the super-secret, code-making, code-breaking civil and military communications unit headquartered at Ft. Meade, Md.

The job candidate, who has complained to the Senate Constitutional Rights Subcommittee, says the NSA "interview" took place in a small room with a mirror on one side. He says he was told he could be observed and photographed through the mirror.

With him in the room was an NSA employee, who operated what was said to be polygraph (or lie detector) machine. The "interview" took about three hours, and this is part of what the student says he was asked:

- Are you a Communist?
- Have you had any employers not listed on the application?
- Have you ever been court-martialed?

• Have you ever taken drugs of any kind?

• Do you know the meaning of terms such as "fellatio."

• Give the names and addresses of at least one person you've had sexual relations (of some kind) with.

And so forth.

The idea, the interviewer said, was not to pry but to find out how "honest and truthful" he could be with the government.

The Subcommittee says that each year NSA and its counterpart, the Central Intelligence Agency, give about 9,000 lie detector tests. Not all of them are like the particular interview described, of course, but it's enough to make one wonder what sort of political and romantic data the agencies come up with.

One who wonders is Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.). Next week, he will introduce a bill that would outlaw all employee lie detector tests (18 agencies are now said to use them), and also bar them in businesses involved in interstate commerce. His bill reportedly provides no exemptions for the NSA, CIA, Atomic Energy Commission, State Department or others who now find them necessary for some in-house probes.

Somebody has suggested that when administration witnesses testify on (and against) the new Ervin bill, that they be strapped to lie detector machines first, just to determine how "honest and truthful" they can be with the government.

Away From It All: General Services Administration's top regional officials and local

brass are spending a five-day weekend in Virginia Beach.

The conference at the Cavalier Beach Hotel, complete with wives and families, is to exchange ideas and come up with new ways to serve the government better and, uh, cheaper!

Everybody Hoodwinked: American Federation of Government Employees says just about everybody is being had, financially, under a new government scheme to raise college graduates' starting pay. Civil Service Commission is planning to boost beginning salaries for college people nearly \$1,500 a year by upgrading job classifications to GS 7, which pays about \$8,500 a year.

AFGE president John F. Griner says the upgrading proposal would mean \$12.5 million a year more for about 10,000 new workers. But he says it would actually cost rank-and-filers \$250 billion next year.

AFGE statisticians figure the loss would come about because the college upgrading would transfer five professional job classifications out of the GS 5 level to GS 7. Government salaries are based on studies of private industry pay, and AFGE says the "upgrading" would change the guideposts used and result in lower salary recommendations for government people next January.